

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/541,454
Amendment filed February 26, 2009
Reply to OA dated December 3, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and 17-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 12, 13 and 16, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having on its surface an adhesion layer containing a pigment as a primary component, characterized in that the method comprises mixing a rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle diameter (major axis diameter) in the range of 80 μm to 200 μm with a treating solution containing ~~[[the]]~~ a pigment having an average particle diameter (major axis diameter) in the range of 0.01 μm to 0.5 μm , and then drying the rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the pigment.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that the method comprises mixing ~~[[a]]~~ the rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder with ~~[[a]]~~ the treating solution containing the pigment, and then obtaining by

filtration the rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the pigment.

Claim 14 (Original): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that the pigment accounts for 5 wt% to 33 wt% of said treating solution containing the pigment.

Claim 15 (Original): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that said treating solution containing the pigment comprises an organic dispersing medium.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having an adhesion layer containing a pigment as a primary component adhered to the outermost surface with one or more interposed layers of coating films formed on the surface of the rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder, characterized in that the method comprises mixing a rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle diameter (major axis diameter) in the range of 80 μm to 200 μm , and having one or more layers of coating films formed on the surface thereof with a treating solution containing [[the]] a pigment having an average particle diameter (major axis diameter) in the range of 0.01 μm to 0.5 μm , and then drying the rare earth ~~metal-based~~ metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the outermost surface thereof the treating solution containing the pigment.

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Claims 17-20 (Canceled).